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Kentucky Library & Museum

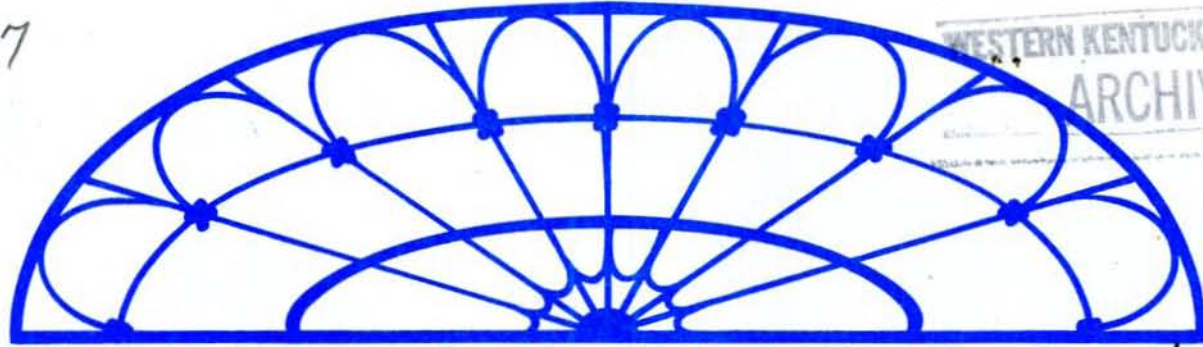
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THE FANLIGHT

Vol 2, No 1. News from The Kentucky Museum and Library October, 1984

"If Elected" Team Predicts A Successful Run

The Harry L. Jackson Gallery in The Kentucky Museum had never contained so many objects on display.

On panels, under Plexiglas, and in glass cases, over 1,500 political campaign items for some 200 Kentucky candidates were arrayed. The exhibit "If Elected. . .The Rather Kentucky Political Americana Collection" was just about ready for its September opening, but Bob Brigl, associate curator of exhibits, was still not quite satisfied.

Pondering the arrangement of rare presidential materials - - a long-stemmed clay pipe carved with the image of Henry Clay, a few coins with the inscription "Henry Clay and the American System," and a Lincoln and Johnson campaign ribbon - - Brigl said, "With so many objects to exhibit, organization and arrangement are very important to understanding."

Indicating panels that featured everything from dignified portraits to a mock "Wanted" poster, from a Proctor Knott cigar box of the 1880s to a flyer advertising the "Martha Layne Collins" mixed drink, he commented, "Political campaigns come and go, and the campaign materials are forgotten, but here are items from over 100 years that have been saved. You can readily see how Kentucky politics have changed - - and how they have stayed very much the same."

"Colorful--both literally and politically"

"The exhibit is colorful - - both literally and politically," said Connie Mills, a Kentucky Library reference librarian who helped compile an exhibit information notebook. "It's also very informative. We can follow the careers of politicians as they rose to national prominence, see how frequently sons followed in the father's footsteps, and also trace the emergence of women in politics."

Both Brigl and Ms. Mills anticipated enthusiasm by museum visitors for "If Elected."

"I think they will be intrigued by what they see," noted



Donna Parker, exhibits technician at The Kentucky Museum, puts on the finishing touches of the title graphic for "If Elected. . .The Rather Kentucky Political Americana Collection," opening September 11 at The Kentucky Museum.

Brigl. "The exhibit is like an open-ended learning experience. You will see some campaign items that look familiar, and then be drawn to others from past elections that are only dimly remembered."

From Glass Saucers To Plastic Frisbees

"The exhibit says something about our social history as well as our political history," Ms. Mills added. "It reflects our throw-away culture. We can see how the glass saucers for Henry Clay have given way to plastic Frisbees promoting today's candidates."

Ms. Mills questioned whether anything from contemporary politics will be left a hundred years from now. "They
(continued on page 2)



Research Begins For Green River Exhibit

Research made possible by a \$15,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities is now underway for a major exhibit on the Green River region of Kentucky, according to project director Diane Alpert, curator of The Kentucky Museum.

Serving as senior researcher is Helen B. Crocker, associate professor of history at WKU, who wrote The Green River of Kentucky for the Kentucky Bicentennial Bookshelf series. She is assisted by Vicki L. Slocum, a WKU graduate.

"It is exciting to work on a project that will make the history of this region visual for thousands of people in the future," declared Mrs. Crocker. "The audience is potentially much larger than that of a book or article." She added that now that the research team is collecting and organizing research materials, "it is very important for the public to know we are interested in obtaining photographs, documents, or artifacts relating to the region."



Helen B. Crocker, associate professor of history, (left) and Vicki L. Slocum, research assistant, examine the construction of an 1892 lock on the Green River while compiling materials for research on a major exhibit on the Green River region of Kentucky.

Especially needed are photographs of Green River steamboat interiors, explanations or diagrams on the workings of hand-operated locks, and any regional artifacts or furnishings from before 1925.

Anyone with information on the area may call Diane Alpert at the museum (745-2592).

(IF ELECTED, continued from page 1)

seem to be made just for today, to grab our attention now, without any consideration for permanence," she noted. "It's fortunate we have this collection. The history books are concerned with the winners of elections, but this exhibit also tells us something about the losers, who also had hopes, dreams, and aspirations. We can see these candidates as human beings, not just textbook figures."



An inaugural button with the misspelled middle name of Governor Martha Layne Collins is one of over 1,500 political campaign items exhibited in "If Elected. . . The Rather Kentucky Political Americana Collection," opening September 11 at The Kentucky Museum.

The Fanlight, the newsletter of The Kentucky Museum and Library, is published quarterly with the July issue entitled The Vinegar Hill Echo. The Fanlight is published and distributed by The Kentucky Museum, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101. Telephone: [502] 745-2592.

Subscription is obtained through membership or ongoing volunteer work with the museum and library.

Managing Editor. Diane Alpert
Editor. Doug Nesbit
Layout and Graphic Design. Donna Parker
Educational Editor. Vicky Middleswarth-Kohn

Editorial Excursions

Welcome, New Members!

Membership in The Kentucky Museum and Library Associates has more than doubled since our June membership drive was announced last Spring in The Fanlight. We therefore take pleasure in extending a hearty welcome to all who have joined since then.

New Sponsors

Ms. Anita Anderson
Bowling Green-Warren County Tourist & Convention Commission
Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Carraco
Ms. Katy Christopherson
Ms. Sallie J. Doud
Mrs. Curry C. Hall
Dr. and Mrs. John D. Minton
Judge Charles H. Reynolds

New Family and Adult Members

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Mrs. Madge Bailey | Dr. and Mrs. John D. Parker |
| Mrs. Sara Beal | Mr. and Mrs. H.C. Peart |
| Ms. Sara M. Bennett | Mrs. Claude D. Pottinger |
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| Mr. Mitchell Leichhardt | |
| Mr. and Mrs. John H. Logan | |
| Mrs. Jane Morningstar | |
| Mr. and Mrs. William Mosby | |
| Dr. and Mrs. Gordon B. Newell | |

Another round of thanks to the many organizations and individuals who helped make the "Farmers' Chautauqua" on July 4 a success in spite of rain. In addition to the civic organizations mentioned in last summer's Vinegar Hill Echo, we would like to thank Bunch's Burial Service for loaning the tent; Wendy's Old-Fashioned Hamburgers for donating cups, napkins, and plastic utensils; and Winn-Dixie Food Stores for a gift certificate that covered the cost of refreshments.

Thanks to all and see you at the museum and library!

Look For "Ghostboasters," Behind-the-Scenes Programs, and Workshops This Fall At The Kentucky Building



"Ghostboasters," an evening of traditional Kentucky ghost storytelling, cider, and doughnuts, is among the highlights of a busy lineup of fall activities for members and volunteers of The Kentucky Museum and Library.

The storytelling evening, scheduled for Friday, October 26 at 7:30 p.m., is rated PG-7 (parental guidance for children under seven) because of some of the "scariest stories," according to Vicky Middleswarth-Kohn, assistant curator for education.

The Behind-the-Scenes program series continues with a session Tuesday, October 23 at 3:00 p.m. on the "If Elected" exhibit and one on Tuesday, November 20 on "The Bride Wore Blue" exhibit.

Members are reminded of their advance registration and discount privileges for two workshops coming up in November and December: "Return to Christmas Past: Historic Decorations For Your Tree," set for Wednesday, November 28 at 7:30 p.m., and "Making Old-Fashioned Christmas Presents," a family workshop scheduled for Saturday, December 8 at 10:00 a.m.

The annual Christmas reception for members, volunteers and departmental student assistants will be held Thursday, December 6 at 7:00 p.m. in the Garden Gallery. The occasion precedes a holiday concert by the WKU Chamber Singers in Galleries K and L at 8:00 p.m. The popular yearly concert will again feature a program of both classical and traditional Christmas music for the entire family.



What's Happening

| | |
|--|---|
| Monday, October 1 10:00 a.m. | VOLUNTEER TRAINING PROGRAM: Kentucky studies tours. |
| Tuesday, October 2 | TEXTILE OF THE MONTH: Bell pull. |
| Tuesday, October 23 3:00 p.m. | BEHIND-THE-SCENES PROGRAM: "If Elected." <i>For members and volunteers only!</i> |
| Friday, October 26 7:30 p.m. | FAMILY PROGRAM: "Ghostboasters" storytelling event. <i>For members and volunteers only!</i> |
| Thursday, November 1 | TEXTILE OF THE MONTH: Handkerchiefs. |
| Tuesday, November 6 | Kentucky Building closed for Election Day. |
| Thursday, November 8 7:30 p.m. | FASHION SHOW: "Contemporary Bridal Fashions with Historical Touches." Co-sponsored by The Brides House of Bowling Green. |
| Saturday, November 10 9:00-3:30 | MEETING: Historical Confederation of Kentucky Annual Meeting. Pre-registration necessary. |
| Tuesday, November 13 11:45 a.m. | LUNCHTIME LEARNING: "Topics in Local History," Subject and speaker to be announced. |
| Saturday, November 17 9:30 a.m. | TEACHER WORKSHOP: "Victorian Christmas in the Classroom." Pre-registration necessary. |
| Tuesday, November 20 11:45 a.m. | LUNCHTIME LEARNING: "Topics in Local History." Subject and speaker to be announced. |
| 3:00 p.m. | BEHIND-THE-SCENES PROGRAM: "The New Bride Wore Blue." Speaker: Dr. Sallye Clark. <i>For members and volunteers only!</i> |
| Thursday, November 22 | Kentucky Building closed for Thanksgiving Day. |
| Tuesday, November 27 11:45 a.m. | LUNCHTIME LEARNING: "Topics in Local History." Subject and speaker to be announced. |
| Wednesday, November 28 7:30 p.m. | ADULT WORKSHOP: "Return to Christmas Past: Historic Decorations for Your Tree." Pre-registration necessary. |
| Thursday, November 29 10:00 a.m. | VOLUNTEER TRAINING PROGRAM: "An Old-Fashioned Christmas" programs. |
| Tuesday, December 4 11:45 a.m. | TEXTILE OF THE MONTH: Crazy quilt. CURATOR'S CHOICE EXHIBIT: "Little People: Dolls from the Museum Collection." LUNCHTIME LEARNING: "Topics in Local History." Subject and speaker to be announced. |
| Thursday, December 6 7:00 p.m. | RECEPTION: Annual holiday reception. <i>For members and volunteers only!</i> |
| 8:00 p.m. | CONCERT: Annual holiday program by the Western Kentucky University Chamber Singers. |
| Saturday, December 8 10:00 a.m. | FAMILY WORKSHOP: "Making Old-Fashioned Christmas Presents." Pre-registration necessary. |
| Saturday, December 22- Tuesday, January 1 | Kentucky Building closed for Western Kentucky University Christmas break. |

FOR KIDS ONLY



IF ELECTED. . .

When George Washington was inaugurated in 1789, special metal buttons were made in honor of the event. The number of medals and buttons grew as America's political parties developed, and before long, political candidates were using buttons, ribbons, and banners to help win elections.

In the museum's exhibit "If Elected," you can see campaign objects from the 1840s through the present - - buttons, posters, bumperstickers, and even a Frisbee! Come learn about Kentucky's political campaign history, then celebrate this year's election with the activities on this page.



BOOKS ABOUT AMERICAN POLITICS FROM THE BOWLING GREEN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Right on Dellums! : My Dad Goes to Congress
by Bob and Lynne Fitch, J 329.023 F551 R

Electing Our Presidents by Helen Stone
Peterson, J 324.73 P442 E

Political Campaigning by Roy Hoopes,
J 324.7 H 766 p

Politics in Art by Joan Adams Mondale,
J 704.949 M744 p

BECOME A POLITICAL COLLECTOR!

During this fall's election, be on the look-out for buttons, stickers, and other campaign objects. Use this list to get started.

BUMPER STICKERS

CLOTHING printed with a candidate's name or slogan

GLASS or CERAMIC objects

JUGATE BUTTONS (lapel buttons picturing both presidential and vice presidential candidates)

NAME BUTTONS (lapel buttons printed with a candidate's name)

PENS or PENCILS printed with a candidate's name

POSTERS

TABS (metal buttons with tabs for attaching the button to a collar or buttonhole)



A CHICKEN--AND MORE--IN EVERY POT

In the past, Kentucky political rallies were all-day events with speeches, debates, and picnic dinners of burgoo--a spicy meat and vegetable stew. With today's television coverage of conventions, debates, and election returns, you can watch history being made in your living room. Why not cook up a pot of Crockpot Burgoo for November 6 and make Election '84 a family affair!

INGREDIENTS

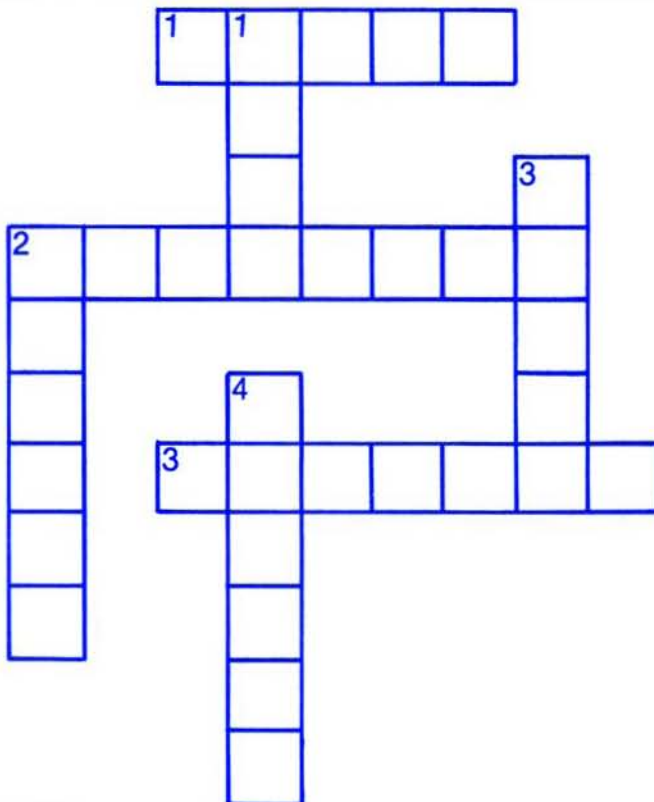
1. ½ lb. stewing beef chunks
2. ½ lb. boneless pork chops
3. 2 boneless chicken breasts
4. 1 t. black pepper
5. 1 t. red pepper flakes
6. 8½-oz. cans of corn, lima beans, white beans, and carrots
7. ½ c. each frozen chopped onions and green peppers
8. 15-oz. can of potatoes, drained
9. 15-oz. can of tomato sauce

On the night before the election, put the first five ingredients in a large pot with 4 cups of water. Bring to a boil, then reduce the heat, cover the pot, and simmer for 2 hours. Then remove the meat from the stock, cool it, and shred it into thin strips. Put the meat and the stock into a 3½-qt. crockpot and add the remaining ingredients. Stir and slow-cook for 2 hours at "HIGH." Then slow-cook all night and all of the next day at "LOW," stirring occasionally.

Adapted from traditional recipes from Daviess County, Kentucky



Kentucky Democrats have used the rooster as a symbol since the 19th century. How many can you find in the exhibit "If Elected"?



KENTUCKY GOVERNORS CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. He served in the Missouri legislature before becoming governor of Kentucky in 1883
2. He was "Happy" in 1935 and 1955
3. She is Kentucky's first woman governor

DOWN

1. He was a judge in Barren County before becoming governor in 1967
2. He came from McCracken County and became governor in 1974
3. He promised to run Kentucky like a business
4. He was assassinated in 1900

Notes From The Hill

Editor's Note: This column, which examines the relationship between WKU academic disciplines and the collections, exhibits, and programs of The Kentucky Museum and Library, welcomes Dr. John D. Parker, professor of government. Dr. Parker's knowledge of political history and his activities as a collector of political memorabilia give him a unique perspective on what we can learn from the "If Elected" exhibit.

The Game Of Politics

By Dr. John D. Parker, professor of government, Department of Government

Politics is sometimes referred to as a game. Like the game of love, it is taken very seriously by its participants, yet sometimes degenerates to the ridiculous.

The range in emotions generated by politics was apparent to television viewers of this year's Democratic and Republican National Conventions. Also apparent was the traditional American penchant for visually displaying political emotions through the use of campaign posters, buttons, banners, hats, balloons, and other gewgaws. The Kentucky Museum's exhibit of the Rather Kentucky Political Americana Collection illustrates the diversity of approaches to venting emotions and winning votes. It also reflects the changes that have taken place in American politics during the past century.

"Not Wanted"

Throughout American history, some partisans have not been able to resist issuing printed attacks on their opponents. An old example of this in the exhibit is a scurrilous A.B. "Happy" Chandler "Not Wanted for Governor" poster. Somewhat more muted is the 1979 bumper sticker, "John Y. Brown, Jr.: A Legend in His Own Mind."

These attacks often include humor in an attempt to avoid the appearance of unmitigated nastiness. But humor and cleverness have been the goals of other campaign materials, such as "I am a Cooper Fan" printed on an old-fashioned hand fan. Also falling into this category is the poster touting ex-University of Kentucky basketball star Bill Spivey for Lt. Governor, shown posed in his basketball uniform over the caption "Let's Stand Tall in Frankfort."

Party Loyalty

Although voters today sometimes nostalgically long for the statesmen of history, the political campaigns waged in the past often did not live up to our fanciful notions of

decorous, statesmanlike affairs. Voters were likely to be strongly wedded to a party. General election campaigns generally stressed party labels. Campaign rhetoric was often vitriolic. Yet the printed campaign aids were generally dignified, though not without their share of hyperbole. Thus, a 1923 gubernatorial campaign poster in the exhibit pictures a solemn Alben Barkley, and proclaims that he is "Kentucky's Only Hope."

"Like a Business"

As the allegiance of voters to political parties has weakened, campaigns increasingly have followed Madison Avenue advertising techniques and candidates have become more entrepreneurial in their appeal. The emphasis now is on selling the candidate as an individual in both primary and general elections. Thus, in several modern campaign posters in the exhibit, the candidate is shown in shirt sleeves with a loosened collar and tie. Posters of John Y. Brown, Jr., picture him with his celebrity wife, or promising to "run Kentucky like a business." Maybe the old days really were better!



Wanted: Volunteers to clip newspapers for the vertical files in The Kentucky Library. If you can spare an hour a week or more, please call Connie Mills at The Kentucky Library (745-2592).

The Kentucky Museum Hosts Historic Confederation Annual Meeting

"Victorian Kentucky" will be the theme of the annual meeting of the Historic Confederation of Kentucky, scheduled for Saturday, November 10 at The Kentucky Building.

Special tours of the museum's exhibit "Growing Up Victorian" and a walking tour of Bowling Green's 19th century architecture are planned. Following the business luncheon at the Downing University Center, Jane Curry will present "Samantha Rastles the Woman Question," a "living history" lecture on the relationships within 19th-century farm families.

The Confederation is an organization of historical societies and history museums across the state. Individuals interested in history and the Victorian Era are encouraged to attend the meeting. For pre-registration information, contact James Wallace, H.C.K., Box H, Frankfort, KY 40602.

The Kentucky Museum, as a nonprofit organization and a part of Western Kentucky University, welcomes your membership support. Funds from this source contribute significantly to our resources for providing programs for an ever-widening public. For information on membership benefits such as receiving The Fanlight newsletter, discounts at The Museum Store, invitations to receptions and special activities, and more, see Doug Nesbit at The Kentucky Building or call him at (502)745-2592. The form below is provided for your convenience in selecting an appropriate level of participation. Simply fill out, detach, and mail to: Public Information Officer, The Kentucky Museum, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, KY 42101. Please make checks payable to The Kentucky Museum and Library.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

TELEPHONE _____

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ _____ for the membership category circled below:

| | | | |
|---------|------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| Junior | \$3 | Contributing Sponsor | \$26 to \$100 |
| Student | \$6 | Sustaining Sponsor | \$100 to \$500 |
| Adult | \$15 | Patron | over \$500, under \$10,000 |
| Family | \$25 | Benefactor | \$10,000 and up |



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Western Kentucky University
Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101
Telephone (502) 745-2592

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